



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



KULTALI MILON TIRTHA SOCIETY

(A Forum For Rural Development & Social Upliftment)

Vill.: Kultali, P.O.: Narayantala, P.S.: Basanti,

Dist.: South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743329, West Bengal, India

Contact No. +91 9933903412 / 9126691500

Email: tirthamilon@gmail.com / tirthamilon@yahoo.co.in

Web. Address: <https://kmts.org.in/>

From the Founder & President Desk



LOKMAN MOLLA

This is a pleasure to present this reflection before all of you regarding the activities undertaken by the organization during the year 2023-2024 by crossing the hurdles and overcoming obstacles, odds and hardship which have made us confident to carry on our activities for the betterment of the people with whom we are working.

The activities that have been undertaken by the organization broadly focus on the livelihood development, preservation of Indian culture and heritage and welfare of the deprived. We have been learnt much more from the people for utilizing the indigenous and traditional cultural system and people's wisdom for enhancing livelihood status and utilizing the local resources as yet unrealized.

This year also we have tried to extend our support services to benefit the people in need, whom we serve. We tried utmost to be good service provider and to be with the people to overcome their odds, difficulties and their problems that are affecting their day to

The next few pages will reflect the programme activities that we have performed during the period under review. We have had support from different well-wishers, friends, donors, experts, Govt. departments and officials and every sort of stake holder without whom we could not proceed for our journey during this year.

The community members and the people in need are with us and we hope that they will be with us to participate more in our programmes to work together for achieving a meaningful result.

Thanks to all.


Founder & President

From the Secretary Desk



Achnitya Dinda

Dear all,

I would like to convey my heartfelt gratitude to our members, Staff Members, well-wishers for helping us in all respects in the matter of Social Welfare activities and development action for the community by serving the poor and marginalized people. Our organization has been doing multidisciplinary activities since its inception with good factors. The people's trust to us is the viaticum of our journey.

To translate the mission is not very easy and everyone and any organization have to cross the hurdles of the journey to translate the mission. Continuous resource crunch, local problem etc. were a part of it. In spite of this we made all our efforts to accomplish the task set to achieve the goal of unfolding human resources and other educational, physical and economic aspects of development.

In the year 2023-2024 our organization has made its best efforts for implementation of development activities in rural areas.

We have enough confidence, courage and firm determination to combat the maladies; we need to be capacitated more for further promotion of our society.

With Thanks to all,

Secretary

GENESIS

KULTALI MILON TIRTHA SOCIETY is a secular non-political, non-profitable registered organization having interest on the commitment to serve the poor and marginalized people, irrespectively religions, languages, cast, and creed for a just human society.

Since, its establishment, we are trying to help the poor, small and marginal farmers, artisans to fight against the obstacles to bring a positive change to the socio-economic status of their families.

Vision

KMTS visualizes itself as a voluntary development organization to enable the people for fullest possible realization of the manifold human potential leading to self-reliance.

Enhancing awareness and improving the skills and knowledge among the people to create a favorable environment for their own initiatives that they can manage their own programmes for sustainability.

Mission

KULTALI MILON TIRTHA SOCIETY's mission is to create a meaningful opportunity for the under privileged, distressed, deprived segments of the society with a focus on poor people so that they can attend Socio-economic, sustainable development by providing health, education, vocational training and technical support.

Objectives:

- ◆ To work for sustainable development practises in the rural areas ensuring women empowerment at all stages.
- ◆ Making people aware of the rights, duties, and responsibilities as an individual and as a citizen.
- ◆ Providing preventive, promotive and curative health care services for the people in general and women and children in specific
- ◆ To motivate the youths for entrepreneurship development with a view to make them self supportive including acquiring skill suited to their needs, priorities and capabilities
- ◆ Overall improvement of socio-economic conditions of the target community including basic health, education and livelihood enhancement.

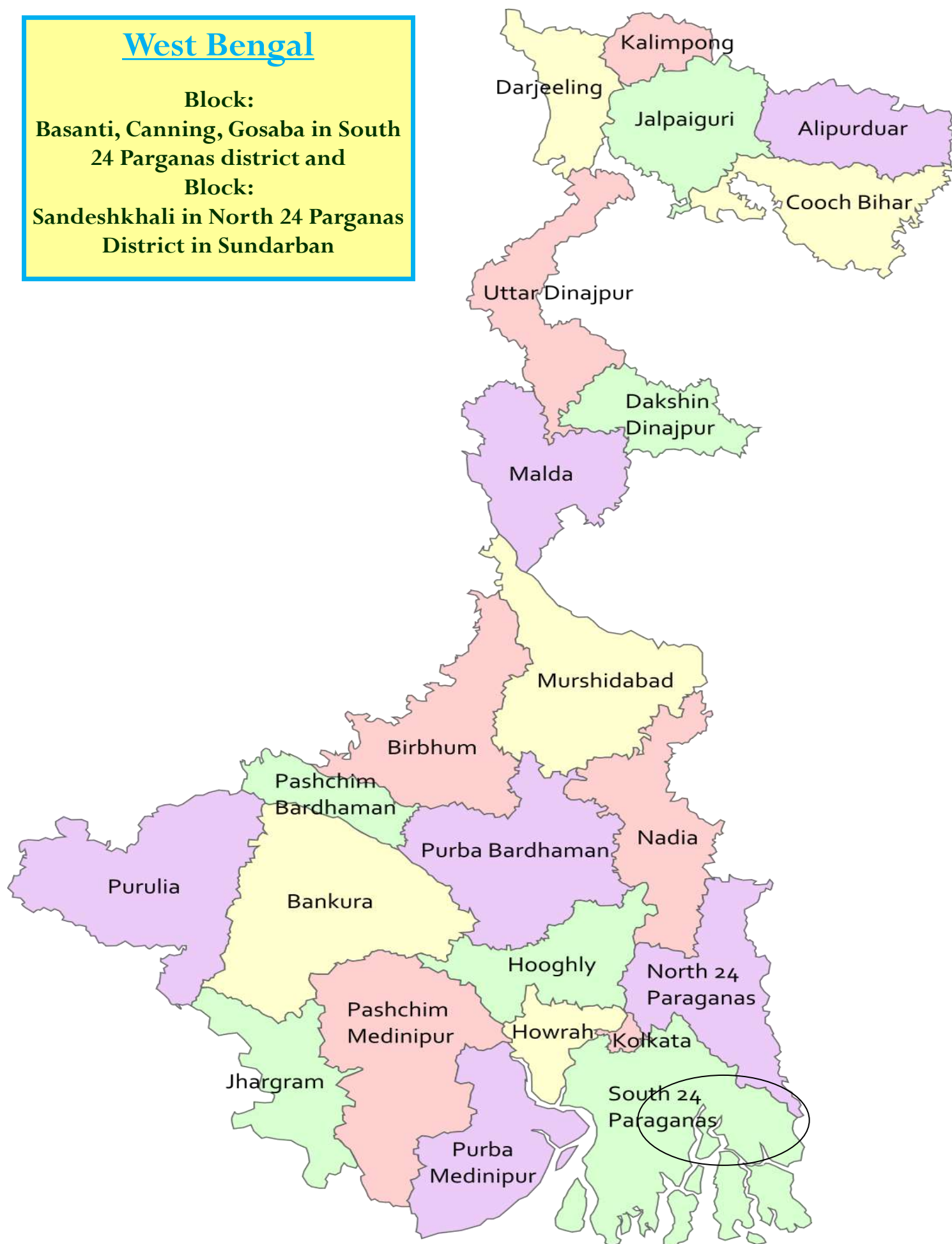
West Bengal

Block:

**Basanti, Canning, Gosaba in South
24 Parganas district and**

Block:

**Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas
District in Sundarban**



Our Thrust Areas

- ★ Education
- ★ Family Counseling
- ★ Disaster Response
- ★ Capacity Building Trainings & Workshops
- ★ Skill Development
- ★ Healthcare
- ★ Life Skill Training
- ★ Environment and Climate Changes
- ★ Cultural Activities

Reaching out to Children and Women in need or distress:

KMTS seeks to improve access to education, counseling, healthcare, potable water and safe sanitation with a focus on disadvantaged children and women and weaker sections of society. This ensures that they can grow physically and mentally healthy, confident and self-respecting. The objective is to integrate resources for a participatory development strategy to improve socio-economic indicators through effective management of locally available resources.

Skill Enhancement for Rural Livelihood Generation:

KMTS mobilizes resources to provide youth financial assistance services and enabling effective income generation initiatives by women from disadvantaged backgrounds. It enables and motivates the beneficiaries to overcome their poverty community. This led to the formation of community-based self-help groups, this in turn increases their ability and capacity to participate effectively locally development programs in terms of income growth.

Social Programme

A society can successfully end social issues if they become adamant. These social issues act as a barrier to the progress of society. Thus, we must all come together to fight against them and put them to an end for the greater good.



Book Distribution to the poor and destitute students:

In an effort to combat educational inequality in the remote areas of West Bengal, KMTS recently organized an important book distribution program in Basanti and Gosaba, located in the heart of the Sundarbans region. This initiative is part of the Society's larger mission to increase access to literacy and education for underprivileged communities. By providing students with essential academic resources, the event aimed to bridge the gap in educational opportunities, ensuring that children in these isolated regions have the tools they need to succeed academically.

KMTS book distribution event in Basanti and Gosaba is a significant milestone in their ongoing efforts to uplift education standards in the Sunderban region. It underscores the NGO's role as a catalyst for change, committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn and grow. As the community looks forward to more such initiatives, the foundation laid by events like these promises a brighter, more educated future for the children of Sundarbans and beyond, reinforcing the belief that education is the key to overcoming poverty and achieving sustainable development.

Job Fair

The job fairs organized across India was an ideal platform for the employers to meet skilled and talented youth with disabilities and direct them towards suitable job opportunities.

Due to lack of employment, the employment situation is very poor all over India. Many students have completed their studies and running around in search of work. Kultali Milon Tirtha Society recently organized Job fairs for the purpose of providing employment to unemployed young women from various parts of West Bengal without such employment. Three thousand boys and girls gathered here. Through interviews, 500 boys and girls got jobs and they got rid of unemployment. It is our aim to organize this kind of job fair more extremely in coming year.





PEADY SEED DISTRIBUTION:

Sundarbans is very backward in terms of farming due to geographical location, natural calamities. Farmers are not able to cultivate in such a way for not getting certified seeds. Farmers of Sundarbans mainly cultivate only once a year during monsoon (July – October) due to lack of irrigation water. Some of the farmers are cultivate during the summer months (November-February). In addition of fish farming we are organized special Workshop on cultivation with Rice Seed Production Technologies and distributed satisfied peady seeds was supported by ICAR-CRIJAF.

AGRICULTURAL INPUT DISTRIBUTION:

Many poor people in rural areas of Sundarbans are dependent on livestock farming for their livelihood. Kultali Milon Tirtha Society's animal husbandry initiative in the catchment areas around its project sites plays a major role in supplementing family income and generating gainful employment in the villages, particularly among landless labourers, small and marginal farmers, and women.

Objective:

Employment opportunities in the traditional agriculture sector are shrinking rapidly and there is virtually no scope for employment of rural unskilled youths in capital intensive industrial units. On the other hand, demands for milk, meat, egg & other livestock-related products are growing exponentially due to population explosion, high GDP growth, growing urbanization and change in the food habits of the middle and upper strata of society. Animal Husbandry and dairy sectors, therefore, have the potential to open up new vistas for employment generation in rural areas. This project was initiated to provide livelihood opportunities to semi-literate and uneducated people in the catchment area of our project sites.

Social Programme

A society can successfully end social issues if they become adamant. These social issues act as a barrier to the progress of society. Thus, we must all come together to fight against them and put them to an end for the greater good.



Education Programme

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

-Malcolm X



Kultali Milon Tirtha Society has been making collective efforts in improving the quality of education at different levels, through programmes developed on the basis of the needs of the children in the communities.

In order to improve the quality of education-

Work closely with government, community-based organisations and other stakeholders in the effective implementation of Right to Education Act.

- ♦ Develop and pilot appropriate learning models and practices at the grass-root level to enhance the quality of learning.
- ♦ Empower communities to monitor the functioning of schools and advocate for the implementation of various Acts and Entitlements for quality education for all children.
- ♦ Provide livelihood programmes for parents to enable them to earn a steady income to support their children's education.
- ♦ Support school-going children from vulnerable families by providing study materials, arranging special coaching programs, sharing course fees and encouraging children to enroll in vocational and professional education.

KMTS believes in community empowerment and the most effective way to do it is to help communities build their own development and educational institutions. KMTS also continuously advocates for community institutions to build a more just society free from all sort of discrimination as it helps progress in an more collective approach. In this regard for the past 27 years KMTS have build and help shaped various development and educational institutions for the community it works with.

Workshop & Seminar



Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Jal Jeevan Mission
Har Ghar Jal

AWARENESS CAMP ON JAL JEEVAN MISSION & QUIZE COMPETITIONS:



As a result of global warming, natural climates is slowly turning its back on its position, the entire the animal and plant world will suffer from drinking water in the coming days. Therefore, a special campaign is going on by the central government about Jal Jeevan Mission. Therefore, with the collaboration of Kultali Milon Tirtha Society has organized an awareness camp to make common people aware.

Awareness programme on Jal Jeevan Mission through Introductory Meetings, Village Cluster Meetings, Gram Sabha and forming/creating various Women committees, Village and Panchayat Level Committees for Successful Implementation for sustainable livelihood of the rural poor

where women are given priority.

Jal Jeevan Mission is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India. The programme will also implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rain water harvesting. The Jal Jeevan Mission will be based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as a key component of the mission.

AWARENESS ON SWACHHA HI SEVA WITH QUIZE COMPETITION:

Swachhata Hi Seva activities were planned and executed various events in the college, schools, Markets and in villages. KMTS were involved in mass cleaning in public places. Waste collection drives and Door-to-door meetings were organized to impart the significance of plastic free and clean surrounding to the illiterate mass in the villages. Awareness campaigns on Swachhata rally, quiz etc. were also performed to impart the role of swachh in the domestic places.



SEMINAR ON PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN:

The effective suppression of trafficking in women and girls for the sex trade is a matter of pressing international concern. The use of women in international prostitution and trafficking networks has become a major focus on international organized crime. Women and girls who are victims of this international trade are at an increased risk of further violence, as well as unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection, including infection with HIV/AIDS.



Workshop on Skill Development:

Kultali Milon Tirtha Society recently organized to impart need based skill training through Skill Development Programmes (SDP). This clearly indicates that our organization is taking proactive steps to integrate entrepreneurship in India towards the development of rural women. Advice is given on how women can improve financially by learning handicrafts, as well as encouraging children. In the current social system, the resources of government jobs are very limited. Technical education will make every family financially sustainable and able to live their daily life easily.

KMTS mobilises resources to provide financial support services to youth and women from disadvantaged backgrounds to enable viable income generating initiatives. This enables the beneficiaries to alleviate their poverty and thus motivates the community. This leads to the formation of community-based Self Help Groups, thereby enhancing their capacity and capability to effectively participate in local development programmes in the areas of income generation.



Training Programme

TRAINING ON NATURAL FARMING:

Kultali Milon Tirtha Society organized a Special Training programme on Natural Farming regarding- thinking that farming practices without chemicals can bring great changes in people's lives such as natural diversity, daily food habits of common people, better quality crops to increase our standard of living for farmers with emphasis on natural farming.

Natural Farming can be defined as “chemical- free and livestock based farming”. It is a diversified farming system that integrates crops, trees and livestock, allowing the optimum use of functional biodiversity. Natural Farming holds the promise of enhancing farmers’ income while delivering many other benefits, such as restoration of soil fertility and environmental health, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Natural Farming builds on natural or ecological processes that exist in or around farms.

Natural Farming is considered a form of regenerative agriculture—a prominent strategy to save the planet. It has the potential to manage land practices and sequester carbon from the atmosphere in soils and plants, where it is actually useful instead of being detrimental.

TRAINING ON HANDICRAFTS:

In order to improve the skills of workers engaged in Handicrafts/ MSME sector & to equip them with better technologies of production, DC (Handicrafts) and NSIC organizes regular training courses like EAPs, ESDPs MDPs & and also SDPs in technical trades attached to the Institute. This year we are organized Training on Handicrafts for the development of artisans of Sundarbans with the help of DC (Handicrafts), Govt. of India.

The likely outcomes of the scheme will be:

This training aims to provide that support and address the challenges currently faced by enterprises that seek to improve rural livelihoods in the handicrafts, Zari, Jewelry, and handloom sectors. We plan to execute focused programs that will enable capacity-building through knowledge inputs and resources, networking support, and seed-funding.



TRAINING ON FISH FARMING:

West Bengal is the second largest fish producing state in the country after Andhra Pradesh. But fingerling farming offers greater advantages over cultivating full-grown fish since it generates profits within a short period, typically 60-75 days.

The market price for fingerlings is Rs 300-350 per kg, positioning it as more financially rewarding than traditional fish farming. The feasibility of producing two or three cycles per year reinforces how effective it is in giving quick returns. Fingerlings, being smaller, can be collected in larger quantities, amplifying the economic yield per unit.



Training Programme

SPECIAL FARMERS MEET/SEMINAR ON FISH FARMING WITH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY:

The entire Basanti Block of South Twenty Four Parganas district has a **total population of 336,717** as per the Census 2011. Out of which 171,279 are males while 165,438 are females. In 2011 there were a total 70,818 families residing in Basanti Block. The picture appears to be very poor in relation to standard of living of the people. Basic needs such as health center, standard of education, livestock resources, income, lifestyle, money flow, source of income, resources regeneration, etc. give the impoverished picture despite availability of potential freshwater resources. The general information is useful in getting the picture of land less population, daily wagers, pond owners, pond size, status of land holding, animals in the households, and beneficiaries of various development programmes.

Most of the people in this block live in scheduled castes, tribes and below poverty line families. Almost every year, farmers in Sundarbans are affected by natural disasters like Yaas, Amphan and Ayala in 2009. A special farmers' meet was held to interest the farmers of Sundarbans in fish farming as an alternative farming for economic development. In this regard we are distributed Fish Fingerling (7kg), Floated fish feed (105kg – three bags) and lime (20kg) to the SC/ST farmers with supported by ICAR-CIFRI under its Tribal Sub-Plan Programme had initiated aquaculture development activities, with a view to disseminating culture practices in scientific lines to increase fish production from the ponds of SC/ST people of the Island.



FISH FARMING IN PONDS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL WOMEN:

West Bengal is the second largest fish producing state in the country after Andhra Pradesh. But fingerling farming offers greater advantages over cultivating full-grown fish since it generates profits within a short period, typically 75-90 days.

The market price for fingerlings is Rs 150-200 per kg, positioning it as more financially rewarding than traditional fish farming. The feasibility of producing two or three cycles per year reinforces how effective it is in giving quick returns. Fingerlings, being smaller, can be collected in larger quantities, amplifying the economic yield per unit.

The rural women of Sundarban are getting involved in different income-generating activities like fish processing. Through these activities, rural women contribute to the family income and ensure a better life for the family members. In this connection, the changed the livelihood changes of the rural women working in the fish farming.

Seminar on Fish Farming in Ponds for Sustainable Livelihood Development of Rural Women in Sundarban to be interested in fish farming in addition to other activities and become economically and sustainable development of their livelihood with initiative of Kultali Milon Tirtha Society and ICAR-CIFRI. And also were given Fish Fingerling, Fish Feed etc. to 1000 women farmers in Sundarban, a few month letters they are reported that they have benefited from fish farming.

Fingerling Size	Distributed to each beneficiaries		
	Fingerling	Fish Feeds	Lime
8 – 12 cm fish fingerling	7 kg. each	3 bags (35kg bag)	20 kg

Outcome:

- ◆ Ready market since huge demand for seed from the farmers.
- ◆ Market available for different size seed like spawn and early fry, late fry and fingerlings.
- ◆ Technologies on seed and feed production and health management are available.

After 75-90 Days	200 – 250 gm per fish
Approx. fingerling	50 kg to 75 kg
Rate	Rs. 150/- to 200/- per kgs.
Income approx	Rs. 8000/- to 12000/-

AWARENESS PROGRAMME TO FORMATION OF SGSY GROUP:

Kultali Milon Tirtha Society has given much importance on promotion of self-help group initiatives among the women through formation of groups for their economic empowerment. Micro credit through promotion of Self Help Groups is such a methodology that promotes responsibility, self-esteem and financial self-sufficiency which demonstrate the capacity of women to solve their own problem. Micro credit is therefore, a powerful tool for eradication of poverty as well as economic empowerment of women.

Kultali Milon Tirtha Society has created 1300 self-help groups and 200 SGSY groups formation to 15000 women's since its inception. All the groups have become economically self-reliant to the various sectors. The SGSY is being implemented by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs), with the active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), the Banks, the Line Departments and our organization and they have achieved economic success by employing like poultry, goats, fish farming and handicrafts etc. sector.

Most notable socio-economic welfare initiative taken by the society is the formation of SHG and SGSY and consequently more than 15000 families are benefited Vocational Training programmes are organized to enhance capabilities of the farmers to increase crop production together with change in the crop pattern for larger yield.

In the financial year 2023-24, KMTS has initiated special awareness programmes to create new SGSY group and their formation, in which more than 500 women participated in the said programme.



FARMERS MEET AND INPUT DISTRIBUTION UNDER SCSP WITH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY:

The economic development of the inhabitants of Sundarbans depends solely on agriculture. The most commonly cultivated crops include paddy, chilly, potatoes, beans, tomatoes, dal etc. The targeted villages have two distinctive seasons for crop cultivation; the first season is from July to October and second season between Novembers to February. Though the agriculture production has improved in Sundarbans over the last decade, it has not yet reached its true potential. For development sustainable agricultural practices, in association with the KMTS and ICAR-CRIJAF adopted a few strategies which are Farmers trainings, Field visit and workshop, supply IEC materials, supply seeds, and modern instruments. Our teams had undertaken a baseline study to understand the existing agriculture scenario of Basanti, Gosaba block. Rural cultivators of Basanti and Gosaba Blocks of Sundarban are the target beneficiaries.



KRISHAN MELA WITH INPUT & SEEDS DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMME:

Sundarban under West Bengal State are dominated by Most of scheduled caste, tribal and BPL population having agriculture and fish farming as their main livelihood. The main food grain crops grown in the districts are Paddy, wheat and commercial crops grown are Potato, Ginger, Turmeric, Oilseed and Betel Leaves with various varieties of vegetables crops. Among the horticultural crops, Mango, banana, Guava, and pineapple are grown in the districts. The farmers of the districts are classified under small and marginal farmers and fragmentation of land on both cultivated and non-cultivated land is common in the area. The farmers are hard-working, dedicated to work and sustain their agricultural livelihood with input assistance from different state line departments, with time changes in terms of market demand and existing local farm technologies; the need for advanced and improved farm technologies is utmost importance for the farming community of the districts.

The KMTS was started in the year 2006 with State Agriculture Department as the host institute imparting research in the farmers' field and training on demand and need based by the farmers. Seeing the dedication of the farmers towards different agricultural livelihood activities and witnessing the interests of the farmers on different new technology, this year the KMTS with the financial support of CRIJAF together organized the Kisan Mela at Kultali, Sundarban to strengthen their livelihood activities and encourage for both the small and marginal farmers on the importance of agriculture for food production as well as for livelihood security.

Kishan Mela



The theme of the Kisan Mela is “Livelihood security of small and marginal farmers through technology diversification in Sundarbans”. With the mobilization of different departments, society, self-help groups, village headman, the mela was participated with a handsome number of 6000 farmers consisting of individual farmers, groups, society, including the line departments, schools children and the programme was witnessed with varieties of agricultural kids distributed to the SC/ST poor farmers with the help of CRIJAF.

The farmers participated with great enthusiasm in the Kisan Mela and witnessed the importance of the programme on how agriculture activities bring a sustained livelihood to the family members of the farming community. The participants felt that such programme should be continued and organize every year in the districts to realize the value of farming as the main occupation to meet the needs of deficit food production, to achieve the food security as well as the livelihood security of the farming community.

Kishan Mela



Handicrafts Mela



KMTS has been patronising the wonderful craft heritage of Sundarbans, not only to sustain it but to develop it further, keeping pace with new demand pattern, new designs. Government has continuously encouraged and supported enhancement of skills for quality creations in the Handicraft sector which has reaped benefits for the craftsmen and created a growing number of craft-admirers both in the country and abroad.

KMTS organized a handicraft fair every year with the help of the DC (Handicrafts), MSME and District Industries Centre (DIC) bringing together handicraftsmen from different parts of the state/country as a traditional festival of Sundarbans, all over the state also fruitfully carry out implementation of these promotional programmes to reach out the handicraft artisans at block and village level.

This year 50 artisans from DC(H), 10 artisans from District Industries Center and 450 stalls from private sector had participated, Which was made a grand success in this said event.

Major promotional programmes undertaken are:

- Domestic Fairs
- Hiring of built up space in events with reimbursement of TA, DA & Carrying Cost to the handicraft artisans
- Established to handicraft artisans
- Craft Demonstration cum Awareness Programme
- Artisan Pahachan Patra



NETAJI'S BIRTHDAY:

Kultali Milon Tirtha Society celebrated 126th birthday anniversary of Netaji's. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was a great Indian leader. He was a freedom fighter who fought for India's independence against British rule. He also led an army called the Indian National Army to rebel against the British. His birth anniversary is celebrated as Prakram Diwas in India. The day is celebrated to honour and remember Netaji's indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation.

Celebration of Independence Day:

Independence Day on August 15, 2023, we are celebrating the 77th Independence Day of India. The air of freedom we breathe today is because of our ancestors who fought for centuries to get us this freedom. We have come a long way from being a British colony to being one of the largest democracies of the world. This celebration of freedom is observed with patriotism and enthusiasm all across the nation. Special eagerness is seen in school students - the future of this nation. Schools all across the country celebrate the occasion with fervour and essay writing, speech competitions, drama, song and dance programs are conducted to instill patriotism in these developing minds.

Celebration of Republic Day:

The staff of KMTS and students of SSVA, gathered with great enthusiasm on 26th of January to celebrate the 66th Republic Day of the country. The flag hoisting took place at 8 am followed by the singing of the national anthem and the recitation of the pledge. Many cultural performances were presented by the students of the school.

Annual Cultural Programme



Annual Cultural Programme

SUNDARBAN KRISTI MELA O LOKO SANSKRITI UTSAB

The Kultali Milan Tirtha Society has organized a ten day long Mega Exhibition-cum-Agriculture, Small Industry, Science and Cultural fair known as Sundarban Kristi Mela -O- Loko Sanskriti Utsab. The said exhibition has become 27th years old now. The said fair has gained recognition every year as one of the great and colourful fair through the participation of the Governments, both central and state and other private organizations together with notable N.G.Os

The Exhibition-cum-Fair is purely educative with a view to disseminating information regarding nationwide development programmes to the people of Sundarbans, who are extremely backward and poor. Through this festival, we try to act so as to relieve the wide spread distress from their life and also they acquire different knowledge from different exhibits. More than Four to five lakh visitors have come in ten days from remote villages of the Sundarbans and also other region to visit and enjoy the recreational programmes. Our endeavor is to block and stop forced dropping of talents due to shortage of economic capability, of course according to our means and within our area of coverage.

The large varieties of items the Fair focused are as follows:- (1) Highlights of activities of Govt. Organization, (2) Educative Exhibition, (3) Discussions with constructive criticisms, (4) Workshop/Seminars, (5) Various Competitions (6) Blood Donation Camp (7) Free Eye Checkup Camp. (8) Free Mega Health Checkup Camp; (9) Apprenticeship Cum Job Mela; (10) Handicrafts Exhibition-cum-sale, (11) Kishan Mela and Distribution of Seeds to the SC/ST poor & destitute farmers.

SUNDARBAN KRISTI MELA O LOKO SANSKRITI UTSAB



Most remarkable feature of the Exhibition are the Illuminating speeches delivered by the distinguished Govt. officials who represented the Central, State Government and other states as well on relevant subjects which helped the Fair to achieve a great dimension. Apart from this quite a number of eminent personalities including Govt. officials, famous litterateurs and other high ups of the society graciously visited the pavilions every day and thus the people of the locality are being inspired and involved themselves in the daily activities of the fair. This is how the Exhibition disseminated social awareness among the backward inhabitants of the Sundarbans.

We are extremely glad that the event is not only confined in this state but also it spared its periphery in different state of India has brightened the Mela with illuminating & inspiring speech by the eminent personalities like Justice Dr. Sambuddha Chakraborti, Former Justice, Kolkata High Court who also inaugurate the Mela/Exhibition. The eminent personalities who participated in the Fair this year include Dr. P.C. Sorkar, World Famous Magician; Dr. S.M. Ejaz Ahmad, Director, Board of Practical Training (BOPT), ER, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India and others Govt. officials and local personalities, this event presided by Lokman Molla, Chairman, Sundarban Kristi Mela-O-Loko Sanskriti Utsab Committee.

On the closing ceremony from the Dias of the 27th Sundarban Kristi Mela -O-Loko Sanskriti Utsab, great exhibition-cum-fair we has distribute the prize for various competitors like Recitation, Songs, Quiz, Folk Dance, Science Model etc. and also participating Ministries /Departments / Organizations.

In this event our focus theme was “Journey towards a Magnificent India In 75 Years’’, and also our focus was Development of the Sundarbans Culture, Literacy, Health, Science and Technology, Improvement of Agriculture, Improvement of MSME, Handicrafts and Textiles Sectors, Peace, Harmony and self-reliance. A bunch of MSME units, Artisans, Farmers, Industrialists, Entrepreneurs, Traders, Buyers, Academicians, Scholars, Scientists, Government Officials, dignitaries, students and youths participated & visited and purchased their needs regularly in this Mega Event, various Govt. Minorities, Departments, Organizations & PSUs shared their valuable opinions on various aspects of the development of our country by showcasing and demonstrating through different latest developments and the achievements which benefited a lot of Entrepreneurs, Industrialists, MSME Units, weavers, Farmers, General people, students were visible in the fair from different areas of the society as well as from Bengal, who acquired knowledge about recent development of India. It was an ideal platform for the interaction among the Exhibitors, Buyers-Sellers, and beneficiaries under a single roof which is rare event of the country. The MSME units, Handicrafts Artisans and SHGs who participated in the fair sold a huge quantity of goods.

More than 2 - 4 lacs of people assembled on the exhibition ground and they became spell bound having witnessed various performances. The exhibition this year has been crowned with covetous recognition as the greatest rural fair in West Bengal. The Exhibition-cum-Fair had been

SUNDARBAN KRISTI MELA O LOKO SANSKRITI UTSAB



divided into mainly four zones, those were- (1) Education & Culture Park, (2) Amusement Park, (3) Buying & Selling Park and (4) Food Park.

So far as the item no.1 is concerned I am to inform you that the Government Department and the Private organizations as well took part in various programmes indicating their interest in and commitment to the dissemination of social awareness and they also made multifaceted display of the Exhibition through their departmental stalls, pavilions, co-sponsorship, brochures, banners, hoardings publicity through T.V., Radio, Sundarban TV and Daily News in DD News, Kolkata Doordarshan broadcasting in News DD Bangla on 20/12/2023 at 10.00 pm. & 27/12/2023 at 10.00 in Songbad Prabaho respectively, Kolkata Doordarshan also coverage in Krishi Darshan for the event on 01/01/2024 at 5.30 pm, All India Radio broadcasting in Gramin Songbad, on 21/12/2023 at 12.35 pm. and other private YouTube channel and Facebook also broadcasting our Mela.

SUNDARBAN KRISTI MELA O LOKO SANSKRITI UTSAB 2023, thus high lighting the importance of such Festival in the remotest part of the Sundarbans is covered by following Printing Medias – Ananda Bazar Patrika on 21/12/2023, 28/12/2023 and 30/12/2023, Bartaman Patrika on 15/12/2023; Aajkaal Patrika on 23/12/2023, Dainik Kalam Patrika on 23/12/2023 & 30/12/2023 respectively.

We voiced our demands from the platform of the Mela every year for the following and got them fulfilled: 1. Fire & Emergency Services Centre, 2. Set up of New Degree College at Bhangankhali named Sukanta College, 3. ITI College 4. 22 numbers Junior High School at Basanti Block; The Sunderbanans have to pay free of cost (LPG) connections under riverbeds to prevent the destruction of Mangrove previous year we made this demand.

This year we have demanded to complete the work of Canning-Jharkhali railway line as soon as possible. And this year's we are demanding the approval of a Sundarbans National Coastal Agricultural University and Canning Sub-Divisional Court.

We firmly believe and hope that with the kind help, cooperation and support of the Central and State Governments and people from various walks of life, we will be able to successfully conduct this year's 27th Sundarban Kristi Mela O Loko Sanskriti Utsab to bring home the message of hope and cheer to our countrymen, particularly to the youth, that a new Indian is emerging steadily and surely.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to all of our guests, Students, Common peoples & participants Ministries/ departments/Organization/PSUs (Central and state) who all come and made the programme more meaningful and also specially thank to all for enthusiastic and spontaneous participation in this event and expecting their whole hearted participation in -future in our Exhibition.